



# Arizona Department of Public Safety

**- For Immediate Release -**

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

## Arizona Department of Public Safety Violent Criminal Apprehension Team (VCAT) arrests 106 suspects as part of Operation Avenger *94 Felony Warrants Cleared*

From Jan. 21, 2009, until Jan. 30, 2009, the Violent Criminal Apprehension Team (VCAT) fanned out statewide as part of **Operation Avenger** and arrested **106** suspects wanted on outstanding warrants. A total of **94** felony warrants were cleared along with **46** misdemeanor warrants. For example, in **Pinal** County 25 top offenders were identified from a list of 1,600 warrants. The operation focused on the Casa Grande area and included DPS GIITEM, DPS Criminal Investigations and the Pinal County Sheriff's Office.

In **Cochise** County, VCAT, which includes the Cochise County Sheriff's Office and the Graham County Sheriff's Office plus DPS GIITEM, the Tombstone Marshall's Office, the Douglas Police Department, Sierra Vista Police Department and the U.S. Border Patrol served five Felony Arrest Warrants.

From Oct. 22, 2008, until Oct. 24, 2008, numerous law enforcement agencies, specifically those in Southern and Northern Arizona, as part of **Operation Can't Hide** joined forces as part of the Violent Criminal Apprehension Team and made **116** felony warrant arrests. The cumulative effort, however, actually cleared **135** felony warrants and **18** misdemeanor warrants.

"This coordinated effort by the Violent Criminal Apprehension Team comes just four months after "Operation Can't Hide" as more than 25 law enforcement agencies statewide came together as part of VCAT to serve felony and misdemeanor warrants in all Arizona counties outside of Maricopa," said David Denlinger Chief of the DPS Criminal Investigations Division.

"The success of this operation is just another example of the overall cooperation between federal, state and local jurisdictions to help make communities a bit safer," said Roger Vanderpool Director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

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